Self-sufficiency in production of fertilizers

57. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizer industry is likely to be hard pressed during the Gulf War;

(b) if so, to what extent the prices of naphtha and finished fertilizers have gone up;

(c) whether according to the experts the self-sufficiency in fertilizers is not likely to be achieved;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what are the steps being taken by Government to improve the fertilizer production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) While the nitrogenous fertilizer industry has not been affected, the phosphatic fertilizer units, which depend on imported intermediates, have been partially affected due to the Gulf War.

(b) The price of Naphtha has gone up on account of 25 per cent Gulf Surcharge. However, the selling price of indigenous fertilizers has not been increased.

(c) and (d) While the self sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilizers will be nearly achieved, in case of phosphatic fertilizers, domestic raw material constraints do not permit self sufficiency.

Supply of additional edible oil to M.P.

58. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state whether Madhya Pradesh Government has asked for edible oils in view of the unprecedented shortage of edible oils in the state of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): Yes, Sir.

Effect of Gulf war on Public Distribution System

59 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System throughout the country and particularly in Delhi has collapsed due to Gulf war;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reorganise the Public Distribution System in the country keeping in view the Gulf War; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take to streamline the Public Distribution System in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.